

Joyce Meyer

In recent years high profile TV evangelist/teacher, Joyce Meyer, has captured the minds and hearts of millions of Christians worldwide. Her tapes, books and appearances have received much attention from bookstores and churches across the breadth of Christendom.

Although Meyer has some helpful material, she is essentially a Word-Faith teacher as well as an enthusiast of psychology. Her Word-Faith teaching copies much of what Copeland, Hagin, Hinn and other false prophets have taught.*

A sample of her quotes follows**:

'During that time He entered hell, where you and I deserved to go (legally) because of our sin. He paid the price there...Jesus paid on the cross and in hell.' (1)

'God rose up from His throne and said to demon powers tormenting the sinless son of God, 'Let Him go'. Then the resurrection power of almighty God went through hell and filled Jesus...he was resurrected from the dead - the first born-again man.' (2)

'...you cannot go to heaven unless you believe with all your heart that Jesus took your place in hell...Jesus went to hell for you.' (3)...'*For three days he was alone paying for our sins as only a man*'. (4)...'*Jesus said 'it is finished'. And he meant the old covenant. The job he had to do was just getting started. He really did the job the three days and nights that he was in hell. That's where the job was done...he was pronounced guilty on the cross but he paid the price in hell...All the hosts of hell was upon him. Upon Him. They got on him. They got him down in the floor and got on him. And they were laughing and mocking...Sunday morning, here comes the Son. Sunday morning, God gets himself together. Ho, hoooo. Justice has been met, somehow the things been taken care of. And ol' God gets his voice together and he hollers out three words and they go roaring through the universe and entering the gates of hell. He said, 'It is enough! It is enough!'*' (5)

Anything that *adds* to, or *detracts* from, the atonement and the deity of Jesus Christ is cultic and dangerously heretical. Jesus did not atone for our sins and take our place *in hell*, but *only* on the cross of Calvary! He was never tormented by demon powers and was never resurrected from the dead in hell! Jesus did not have to be '*born again*'. Jesus was never '*only a man*'. (For Scriptural refutations see our paper: '*The Word Faith Movement - A Closer Look*').

Another heresy of Meyer is the teaching of what appears to be '*Sinless Perfection*'. Meyer says: '*...you are made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. Most people who go to denominational churches never ever hear that! They never hear it! never! All I was ever taught to say was, 'I, a poor miserable sinner. I am not poor. I am not miserable. And I am not a sinner. That is a lie from the pit of Hell! That is what I were and if I still was, then Jesus died in vain. Amen?'*' (5)

This clever logic may sound reasonable but it is not scriptural. We are in fact *saved sinners*. The apostle John says: '**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us**', (1Jn.1:8-10); The apostle Paul says: '**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief**', (1Tim.1:15).

Meyers shows clearly where she obtains her 'revelations': *The Bible can't even find any way to explain this. Not really. That's why you've got to get it by revelation. There are no*

words to explain what I'm telling you. I've got to just trust God that He's putting it into your spirit like he put it into mine...

...I don't know what hell looks like but God gave me a few ideas. Its hot, fire hot, but at the same time its cold and clammy. That's kind of different, isn't it. Fire hot, but cold and clammy.' (5)

Apart from the extra-Biblical revelations, Joyce Meyer is unscholarly and deceptive in her exposition of many passages of Scripture. For example, of Luke 23:43 she says: '*And in Luke 23:43, Jesus said unto him, 'I say unto you today you shall be in paradise with me.'* There is no punctuation in the original translation of the Bible. We have punctuated it and in this particular Scripture it was punctuated wrong. They put in there: '*I say unto you comma, today you shall be in paradise with me, making it appear that the minute Jesus died on the cross He went straight to paradise. No, no, no. He did not. The way it should read is: 'I say unto you today comma. I'm telling you today. Today I'm telling you that you are going to be in paradise with me.'* But he didn't say, '*You're going to be there today.*' He said, '*I'm telling you today.*' (5)

While Meyers has denied a comma in one place she has conveniently put a comma in another place! This is exactly what the cults and others do who teach 'soul sleep', (that a Christian on death does not go immediately to be with the Lord). The phrase '*I say unto you*' ('*amen soi lego*') is used elsewhere 74 times in the Gospels alone. In 73 places the Jehovah Witness Bible (*New World Translation*) puts a break - a comma - immediately after the phrase, '*I say unto you*'. However, Luke 23:43 is their *only exception*! Why? - because it goes against the Watchtowers (JW) teaching. Similarly with Meyer's Word-Faith theology of a Jesus in hell paying for our sins - the comma is misplaced to fit her teaching. However, standard Greek scholarship has always recognised that the immediate context demands the comma to be placed *after* 'you', as is shown in *every* other case.

When Meyers has been challenged to consider and repent of her teachings, she resorts to the same reply that many of the TV evangelists use - that those challenging her are 'religious people' or 'religious pharisees'.

Meyer also teaches faith healing similar to many of the Word-faith healers. She says: '*Pain is a spirit. When it gets in your body, tell it to leave.*' (5) The problem with this teaching is not only that it is unscriptural but that *it doesn't work* for Joyce Meyer...she has had breast cancer and a mastectomy!

As is usual with Word-Faith teaching, Meyer also teaches a 'wealth Gospel'. This has certainly been fulfilled in her own life - she is a very wealthy woman.

Don Matzat writes: '*Here is the deception in all this: A person gains a following, they get a lot of money because they sell a lot of tapes, and think its the blessing of God, when all they are doing is telling sinners what sinners want to hear. What do sinners want to hear? - I'm not a sinner! Of course, people flock to you for that and therefore its not the blessing of God. It's simply a deception...she has rejected the basic Reformational truth of Justification. She is a heretic!*' (6)

Terry Arnold

*See our paper: '*The Word Faith Movement - A Closer Look*').

**See: <http://www.discernment.org/> <http://www.rapidnet.com/>

(1) '*What Should You Believe*', Ch.4, P.35, Aug/91 (2) *Ibid*, P.36 (3) *Ibid*, P.38. In a new edition of this book some changes were made but the bulk of this teaching remains. Deletions include '*Jesus took your place in hell.*' (4) *Ibid*, P.38 (5) Sermon - '*From the cross to the throne*' (6) Don Matzat - interview: '*The Preacher Who Doesn't Tell It Like It Is.*'